



20 October 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian

We have now reached the end of the first half term of school. Many changes have been introduced and I wish to thank all students and parents for the ongoing support and cooperation we have experienced.

Change of School Day from 2nd November 2020:

Due to the onset of winter, the school has decided to reduce lunchtime to 30 minutes. This will mean that lunch will run from 1.15pm to 1.45pm. Therefore, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday school will finish at **3.45pm**. For any student who travels on the school bus, the bus will depart at 4pm daily. Wednesday remains unchanged.

Please ensure your daughter has all she needs with her for the school day. This includes her lunch and a drink. All students should have their school coat with them and maximise their time outside at lunchtime.

November Assessments:

Week Beginning 16th November: Exams for 1st, 3rd and 6th year students.

Week Beginning 23rd November: Exams for 2nd, 4th and 5th year students.

- A 2-hour slot is made available for each exam. Exams may vary in length from 1 hour, 1.5 hours or 2 hours as deemed appropriate by the teacher. If the exam is under 2 hours in length, students will be given time to study ahead of the exam.
- Students will be examined on work covered since the re-opening of school.
- In the week where your daughter does not have scheduled exams, classes will continue as normal.
- The experience of sitting exams in a formal setting is invaluable to students of all year groups and is especially important this year.
- During exam week students must attend for their scheduled exams and may go home at lunch time if they do not have an afternoon exam. Supervised study will be available to any student who is not able to go home early.

The school APP: Post Halloween the school will use the app as the main means of communication. Please ensure you have downloaded the App. All forms regarding absence etc. are now on the App.

Keeping Warm for Winter: Uniformity will shortly have a school fleece available for €25 for any student who wishes to add an extra layer to her uniform for the winter months. Ventilation of rooms is highly recommended in schools. It is important that students keep their coat as an extra layer for outdoors. The fleece will offer the opportunity for an extra layer to be worn indoors.



Protocols for Covid-19

Students must wear **masks** whilst on the school campus. If a student is participating in sport, they may only remove their mask when directed by their coach or teacher.

Please remind your daughters that covid 19 health guidelines apply both inside and outside of school. It has been brought to our attention that events and **social gatherings** are being organised at weekends. We are working very hard in school to keep our staff and students safe. We would appreciate your co-operation in this. Many of our school community have family members who are vulnerable or have compromised health. We all need to work together to keep each other safe.

We are also concerned with the **social media activity** of students. Many false rumours are being spread and situations greatly exaggerated. This is causing stress and anxiety to many of our students. Please be vigilant in monitoring your daughter's on-line activity. In school, students are not permitted to use mobile phones unless it is under the supervision or direct instruction of a teacher. Please discourage your daughter from contacting you during the school day from her phone. The school office will answer any queries you may have and does not refuse students permission to contact home.

Please keep **communicating with the school**. Please keep us informed on any developments within your household related to Covid-19.

This is a very challenging year in school with no two days the same. I commend all staff who are working very hard to ensure your daughter's progress in her education. Please encourage your daughter to continue to engage in her studies. I wish everyone a restful midterm. Stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

Bernadette Prendiville

Principal

Ní Neart go cur le chéile